

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising an effective pharmaceutical unit dosage formulation of vasoactive intestinal peptide/pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating peptide receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 2-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7 (new): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising a pharmaceutically and therapeutically effective formulation having a unit dosage of vasoactive intestinal peptide/pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating peptide receptor agonist in milligrams per kilogram of body weight with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.